

Homecoming

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Madden, who have since graduated. Homecoming had deteriorated from a city-wide event that students, alumni and local citizens celebrated to just another football game, as it is for the majority of fans, barring those alumni that normally did not attend the games, Byrd said. "It seemed like a travesty that our school spirit and students' involvement had deteriorated so greatly in the past couple of decades around this traditionally monumental event," Byrd said.

When Byrd and Madden began organizing the ball, they had concerns from students that the Homecoming Ball would be like another high school prom. To ensure this was not the case, the committee planned a "bigger evening and made the ball more elegant than a

prom," Orthel said.

Formal attire is not required and it is not necessary to wear a tuxedo or a suit.

"We want everyone to come and have a good time and not feel like they need to wear a tux," Orthel said.

Forget about the tuxedo and a date, because it is OK to attend single. Sivley attended the Homecoming Ball last year with a date but said not everyone came with one.

"There were couples and groups of girls and guys that looked like they were having fun," Sivley said. "There were a lot of people there that did not have dates and seemed to be having just as much fun, if not more."

The best part of the Homecoming Ball, according to Orthel, is that it is original.

"There is not another event that is open to the entire University to get dressed up and have a good time," Orthel said.

History

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There used to be a homecoming queen election, but that also died off in the 1960s after a Saint Bernard won the honors.

One thing that hasn't changed is the excitement that the football game, the weekend's main course, brings to the festivities. This weekend's game against Arizona happens to be a big one, and University senior Joshua Crockett, a self-proclaimed die-hard Ducks fan, knows it.

"This game is big, and it's going to be loud," Crockett said. "The fact that it's homecoming is going to make it even louder."

The creation of homecoming weekend was largely the work of the

Alumni Association.

"Its origin is very alumni-based," Richard said. Since then, students have come to play a key role in the planning and coordination of the activities.

This year's celebration is sure to have something for everyone who wants to be a part of the festivities. Paul Steiber, Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing for the Alumni Association, predicts a huge turnout at this weekend's celebration.

"This year it's a combination of homecoming and family week, so we'll have alumni, students and families all converging on campus at once," Steiber said.

Remember, no bonfires in front of the library.

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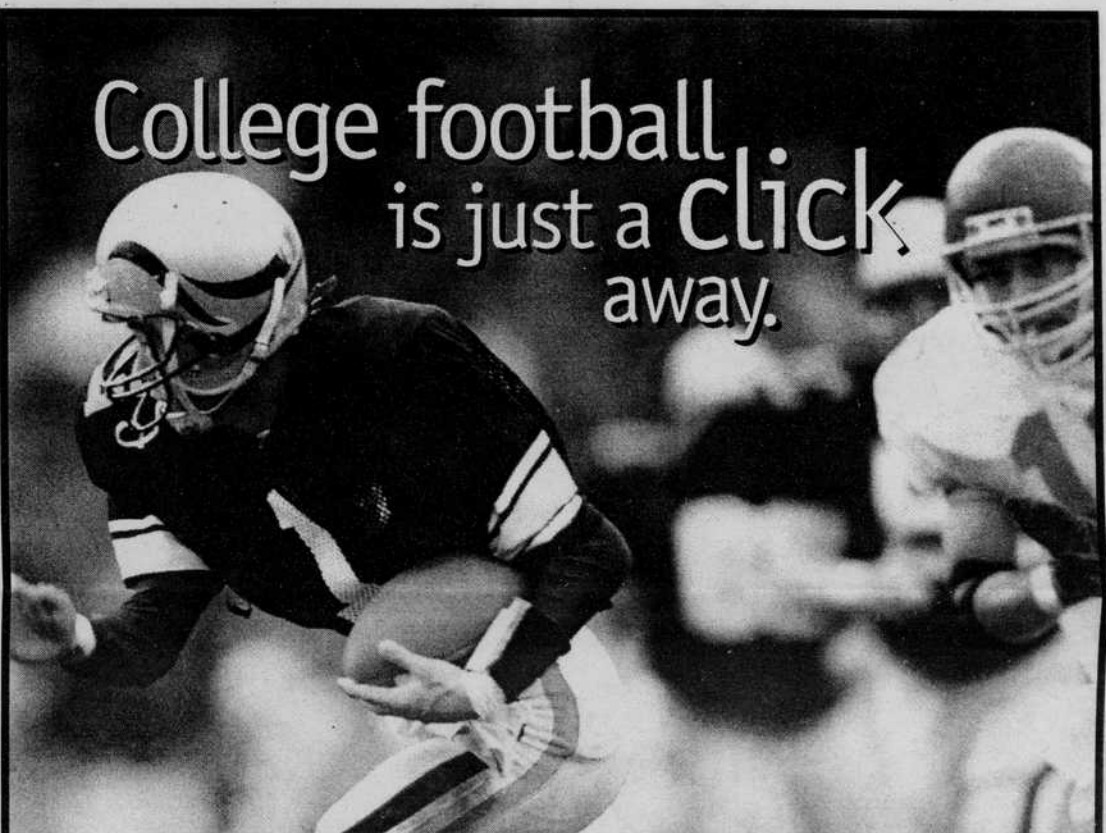
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